

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas Hicks

Art Unit: --

Application No. --

Filed: herewith


For: DECORATIVE TRANSLUCENT WINDOW  
COVERING-DIVISIONAL

Examiner: --

Date: November 16, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on November 16, 2001 as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

  
Attorney for Applicant

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph found on Page 7, lines 22-28, with the following new paragraph.

--The process is applied to a clear plastic substrate containing UV inhibitors in its makeup. A particularly excellent material for the specified use is a highly plasticized, calendared, flexible, polyvinyl chloride film, sometimes referred to as "vinyl" or "static vinyl" in thickness ranging from 4 mils to 10 mils, preferably 8 mils. The sheet of film has first and second opposed surfaces bounded by a periphery. The invention has been very successfully created using "Plasticling .008 clear Non/Top Coated Static Cling Vinyl with a 10 pt. base liner." This material self adheres to a nonporous surfaced by means of atmospheric pressure and cohesion.--

Drawing

Enclosed is the substitute drawing which is submitted for approval by the Examiner and by the Official Draftsperson. Approval of this drawing is respectfully requested.

Please cancel claims 1-3.

Please amend claims 4-6 as follows:

4. A process which combines:

(a) a thin, flexible film of plastic material, having a thickness between 4 mil and 10 mil which self-adheres to a non-porous surface through cohesion and atmospheric pressure,

(b) a printed, colored image which is translucent, allowing light to pass through but diffusing it so that objects on either side cannot be clearly distinguished from the other side,

whereby a window covering is made which is easily installed and removable, visually exciting, colorful, and translucent, that is, it allows light to pass through but which cannot be clearly seen through.

5. A process according to claim 4 which further combines:

(a) printing using sunfast UV inks, ultra-violet light absorbing varnishes, and hardening agents in such a manner that the result absorbs most of the ultra-violet light and resists damage,

whereby a window covering is made which has the qualities described in claim 4 and has been printed and coated in such a manner as to be highly resistant to the effects of ultra-violet light, protect the interior contents from the harmful effects of ultra-violet light, and is highly resistant to scratching and other types of damage.

6. A process which combines:

(a) a thin, flexible film of plastic material, having a thickness between 4 mil and 10 mil which self-adheres to a non-porous surface through cohesion and atmospheric pressure;

(b) a printed, colored image which is translucent, allowing light to pass through but diffusing it so that objects on either side cannot be clearly distinguished from the other side;

whereby a window covering is made which is easily installed and removable, visually exciting, colorful, and translucent, that is, it allows light to pass through but which cannot be clearly seen through;

the process further combining:

(c) printing using sunfast UV inks, ultra-violet light absorbing varnishes, and hardening agents in such a manner that the result absorbs most of the ultra-violet light and resists damage;

whereby a window covering is made which has the qualities described in claim 4 and has been printed and coated in such a manner as to be highly resistant to the effects of ultra-violet light, protect the interior contents from the harmful effects of ultra-violet light, and is highly resistant to scratching and other types of damage;

the process further combining:

(d) images which have designs that tile together to fill spaces larger than the individual pieces,

whereby a window covering is made which has the properties described in this claim and has the additional quality of being able to fit almost any size window.

Please add the following claims 7-18:

7. A method of making a window covering comprising:

providing a transparent flexible substrate of a material which self-adheres to a nonporous surface;

printing transparent ink of a first color onto a surface of the substrate and drying the ink of the first color to form a portion of an image;

repeating the printing and drying acts at least one additional time with at least one transparent ink which is of a color which is different than the first color to form another portion of the image;

half-tone printing over the dried inks with a material to provide a translucent finish to the substrate and image formed of the dried inks;

printing and drying transparent ink of at least one color following the act of half-tone printing;

repeating the printing and drying acts at least one additional time with at least one color of transparent ink which is of a color which is different from the color which is initially printed and dried after the act of half-tone printing; and

thereafter applying a top coat.

8. A method according to claim 7 in which the ink colors are selected from cyan, magenta, yellow and black.
9. A method according to claim 7 in which colors of ink printed prior to the act of half-tone printing are selected from cyan, magenta, yellow and black and colors of ink printed after the act of half-tone printing are selected from cyan, magenta and yellow.
10. A method according to claim 7 in which the half-tone printing act comprises applying varnish to the dried ink using a half-tone negative or half-tone positive to produce a variable varnish layer and to provide the translucent finish.
11. A method according claim 10 in which the act of applying varnish comprises making the entire film and image translucent with the varnish.
12. A method according to claim 7 in which the act of providing a substrate comprises the act of providing a flexible film.
13. A method according to claim 12 in which the act of providing a film comprises providing a single layer film consisting of polyvinyl chloride which is from 0.004 inch to 0.01 inch thick.
14. A method according to claim 7 in which the inks contain UV inhibitors.
15. A method according claim 7 in which the act of applying a top coat comprises printing a flood matte finish UV top coat.
16. A method of making a window covering comprising:  
providing a transparent flexible substrate;  
printing transparent ink of a first color to overlay at least a portion of a surface of the substrate and drying the ink of the first color to form a portion of an image;

printing transparent ink of a second color different from the first color to overlay at least a portion of the surface of the substrate and drying the ink of the second color to form a portion of the image;

printing transparent ink of a third color to overlay at least a portion of a surface of a substrate and drying the ink of the third color to form a portion of the image;

printing transparent ink of a fourth color to overlay at least a portion of the surface of this substrate and drying the ink of the fourth color to form a portion of the image;

half-tone printing of the dried ink with varnish applied in a variable layer to render the entire film substrate and dried inks translucent;

printing transparent ink of a fifth color onto the varnish and drying the ink of the fifth color to form a portion of the image;

thereafter printing transparent ink of a sixth color and drying the ink of the sixth color to form a portion of the image;

thereafter printing transparent ink of a seventh color and drying the ink of the seventh color to form a portion of the image;

wherein the inks of the first, second, third and fourth colors are selected from cyan, magenta, yellow and black inks and the inks of the fifth, sixth and seventh colors are selected from inks of cyan, magenta and yellow; and

applying a flood matte varnish top coat over the dried inks.

17. A method according to claim 16 in which the inks and varnish are applied by lithographic printing.

18. A method of making a window covering comprising:

providing a transparent flexible substrate;

successively applying transparent ink over the substrate to form intermediate layers of ink over the substrate of at least two ink colors, each color of ink being applied and dried before the next color of ink is applied and dried and the inks forming a portion of an image on the window covering;

applying a half-tone layer over the dried inks to render the substrate and inks translucent;

successively applying transparent ink over the half-tone layer to form additional intermediate layers of ink over the half-tone layer of at least two ink colors, each color of ink being applied and dried before the next color of ink is applied and the inks forming a portion of the image on the window covering; and

applying a top coat over the additional intermediate layers of ink.

Remarks

This is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 09/416,361 which has been allowed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The change to the specification mentioned above was made and approved in the allowed parent case.

Enclosed is a substitute drawing with proper margins which has previously been approved in the parent case.

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled by this preliminary amendment because these claims as amended are some of the allowed claims in the parent case.

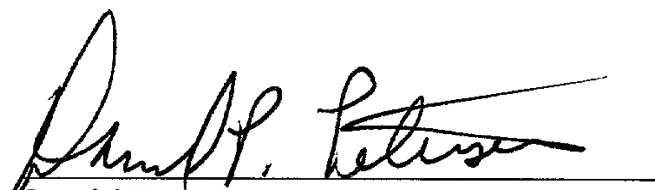
A marked-up copy of claim 6 showing the changes to this claim is included herewith. Claims 4 and 5 are unchanged and therefore a marked up copy is not included. A marked up copy of claims 7-18 is also not included herewith because the claims are newly presented.

The application should be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)**

6. A process according to claim 5 which further combines:

(a) a thin, flexible film of plastic material, having a thickness between 4 mil and 10 mil  
which self-adheres to a non-porous surface through cohesion and atmospheric pressure;

(b) a printed, colored image which is translucent, allowing light to pass through but diffusing it so that objects on either side cannot be clearly distinguished from the other side;

whereby a window covering is made which is easily installed and removable, visually exciting, colorful, and translucent, that is, it allows light to pass through but which cannot be clearly seen through;

the process further combining:

(c) printing using sunfast UV inks, ultra-violet light absorbing varnishes, and hardening  
agents in such a manner that the result absorbs most of the ultra-violet light and resists damage;

whereby a window covering is made which has the qualities described in claim 4 and has been printed and coated in such a manner as to be highly resistant to the effects of ultra-violet light, protect the interior contents from the harmful effects of ultra-violet light, and is highly resistant to scratching and other types of damage;

the process further combining:

(ed) images which have designs that tile together to fill spaces larger than the individual pieces,

whereby a window covering is made which has the properties described in this claim 5 and has the additional quality of being able to fit almost any size window\*.